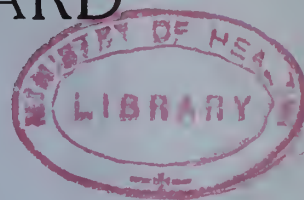

BOROUGH



of CHARD



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ending 31st December, 1940

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

D. V. HAGUE,

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Sanitary Inspector:

P. H. WEBB,

M.Inst., M. & Cy.E.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:

A. L. LARCOMBE.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Chard.**

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1940. War conditions, in particular evacuation, have forced us to accept temporarily a certain amount of overcrowding. Despite this, there has been no extensive epidemic of infectious disease. There has been some increase in the prevalence of Scabies and verminous conditions, and these are being vigorously tackled.

There has been no notable change in Air Raid Precautions' services. The First Aid Post at the Institution is now equipped. Two First Aid Parties with ambulances are based on the town. The ambulances have seen better days, but are difficult to replace at present.

Arrangements are being made to chlorinate both water supplies.

Much extra work has been done by your Sanitary Inspector at the Slaughter House since the war. Some improvements have been made in the washing facilities at these premises.

Yours faithfully,

D. V. HAGUE.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	920 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of	
(a) resident population, mid-1940	4,800
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	4,800
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Books	1,298
Rateable Value	£26,232
Sum represented by a penny rate	£101

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	53	31	22
Illegitimate	2	2	—
Still Births—Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Deaths	79	36	43
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	11.46		
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)	51.72		
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population	16.46		
Altered by Comparability Factor	14.32		

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still)	
	Deaths.	Births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	Nil.	Nil.

**Death Rate of Infants under One Year
of Age.**

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	17.86
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	18.52
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	6
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—
Influenza	1	2
Tuberculosis—Respiratory System	1	1
Other Tuberculosis	1	—
Cancer	1	5
Heart Disease	12	8
Other Circulatory Disease	—	2
Bronchitis	9	3
Other Respiratory Disease	—	2
Intra-Cranial Vasc. Lesions	4	5
Nephritis	1	2
Premature Birth	1	—
Diabetes	—	1
Suicide	—	1
Road Traffic Accident	—	1
All Other Causes	4	10
Total	36	43

SECTION B.

**General Provision of Health Services for
the Area.**

- The Medical Officer of Health is now a whole-time Officer and also Assistant County Medical Officer. The Sanitary Inspector—no change.
- (a) **Laboratory Facilities**—No change.
(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**
Two Ambulances are available, but it is doubtful if these would stand up to a prolonged period of activity.
(c) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**
It is proposed to open a Hostel for difficult evacuated children. No new Centres have been opened up to the end of 1940.
(d) **Nursing in the Home.** No change.
(e) **Hospitals.**

The South Somerset Isolation Hospital at South Petherton deals with infectious cases from Chard Borough and from 6 other districts. The following cases have been treated from Chard Borough during the year:

	Cases	at the Hospital.
Civilians	8	267
Evacuees	3	91
Military	2	99
Total	13	457

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. Water Supply.

Modern chlorinating plants are being *in stalled at both water supplies to the Borough—Otherwise no change.

* Installed March, 1941.

2. Drainage and Sewerage. No change.

Rivers and Streams. No action was taken during the year.

3. Public Cleansing.

Street scavenging has been curtailed owing to the shortage of labour. Home refuse is collected weekly and destroyed.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Inspections of Sewerage & Drainage	126
Inspections for Nuisances	47
Informal Notices served	16
Drainage Tests and Inspections—	
Tests	28
Inspections	21
Houses Disinfected	30
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections	19
Waterworks Inspections	73
Slaughter House Inspections	
(Visits to the Govt. Slaughter	
House)	659
Rivers and Streams	2
Shops and Offices	Nil.
Smoke Abatement	2

4. Schools. No change.

SECTION D.

Housing Particulars.

The population has been increased by well over 1,000 official and unofficial evacuees.

It is to be regretted that 17 houses, previously condemned as unfit for human habitation, have been patched up and are temporarily in use again.

Housing Inspections.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts) ... 26
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 51
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H.Con.Reg. 1925 and 1932 ... Nil.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... Nil.
- (c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary ... Nil.
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... Nil.
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found

not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation Nil.

Housing Action.

- (a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... Nil.
- (b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action. ... Nil.

Action under Statutory Powers during the year

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:
 - (a) By Owners ... Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 19
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after serving of formal notices:
 - (a) By Owners ... 19
 - (b) By Local Authority ... Nil.

Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil.

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit ... Nil.

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

At the present time, a considerable number of houses in the Borough are overcrowded. The actual number is not known.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

Number of Producers on the Register ...	9
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:	
(i) Distributors only ...	6
(ii) Distributors who are also Producers ...	2

Action taken with regard to inspection of Farms and Dairies, examination of samples for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, and the administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 & 1938. Regular inspections of Farms and Dairies have been made. When requested by the County Medical Officer of Health, samples have been taken and forwarded to the County Analyst.

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed—1 Government Slaughter House.

659 Visits have been made to the Government Slaughter House for the purpose of meat inspection.

Regular visits have been made to shops. Vehicles have been inspected. There are no Stalls.

Adulteration. Local Action Taken—Nil.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases

Diphtheria Immunisation.

A scheme is prepared for immunising School Children in 1941. A small percentage of Children under School age have been immunised by the General Practitioners under a County Scheme.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital		Total Deaths
		Isolation	Deaths	
Diphtheria ...	2	2	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	2	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	7	6	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	10	—	—	—
Measles ...	30	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	6	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	1	1	—	—

Analysis of the Total Cases Notified.

	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	Over 65
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	4	1
Measles	0	5	0	3	2	16	3	0	1	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths					
	Res-		Non-Res		Res-		Non-Res			
	piratory		piratory		piratory		piratory			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
0—1	..	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
1—5	...	1	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
5—15	...	0	0	1	0	...	0	0	0	0
15—25	...	1	1	0	0	...	1	0	0	0
25—35	...	2	1	0	1	...	0	0	1	0
35—45	...	0	1	1	0	...	0	0	0	0
45—55	...	0	1	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
55—65	...	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
65 & Upwards	...	0	0	0	0	...	0	1	0	0
Total	...	4	4	2	1	...	1	1	1	0